THE REPUBLICAN, CUSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

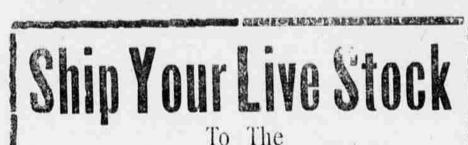


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Shut Your Uncritical Eye

And look with the other one about your house. When you have found a piece of furniture which fails to "pass muster," get in earnest about replacing it-



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"Yes; the pleasantest discomforts and the most enjoyable annoyances of travel are fast disappearing," the elderly drummer reflected sadly. "Even here in the west, where in the old days apparently inexhaustible herds of trouble followed every train, already the most interesting species of disturbance are practically extinct, and these great through lines and vestibule limiteds are exterminating the rest with terrible rapidity. The picturesche uncertainty, too, the individuality, and all the personal traits, which so clearly distinguished the old roads, have all been lost and obliterated in thus sure and methodical, but void and expressionless, progress of the modern train.

"There was a time, gentlemen," the old timer harked back proudly, "before these grasping corporations consolidated all the personality out of the little lines, when a man could wake up and know at once, from the characteristic of the single jolt that woke him, precisely what line he was on. There were distinct peculiarities which we old traveling men soon learned and treasure yet. Why, only last trip when that earthquake threw me out of bed in a Colorado hotel, it sprained my wrist so naturally and skinned my shins so familiarly that it was half an hour before I realized I was not on the old Louisiana & Western. Whereas if it had been my left wrist, instead, and the skin had been scraped from the calves, I'd have known I was-

The most individual road of them all, however," the traveling man shifted quickly, "and the one whose peculiar traits most endeared it to the old fraternity, was, I think, the old Arkansas Midland. It ran through that section of the country where all locomotives carry condensers - it makes the inhabitants so nervous to



prisoner. "She knows me perfectly well, but there's a little misunderstanding. "Let her say it," said the policeman, seeing that she had stopped at the

next corner to wait for a car. "If she knows ye, it's all right." "No, no," protested the prisoner. "Yis, yis," insisted the policeman.

The young man hold back, and the policeman pushed on. It had suddenly occurred to the young man that the very last thing he wanted to de was to get the girl mixed up in such an awkward affair. Far better that he should be taken to the policestation than that she should be made a party to a street scene that was already col-

lecting a crowd. But the policeman insisted. The girl stood at the corner, entirely ignorant of the controversy between the young man and the policeman. She had resolutely refrained from looking back, and it did not oc cur to her that there was any danger of an arrest. She had made it clear to the young man that she was not one of those capricious damsels who change their minds overnight, and there was satisfaction in that. In fact,

give him so severe a rebuff. Then she was startled by the of the policeman at her elbow.

it was rather pleasing to be able to

"He says ye're frl'nds," said the po liceman.

"We are strangers," she answered coldly. Hadn't they decided to be strangers? It was nothing to her that he had changed his mind.

"I tol' ye so!" exclaimed the policeman, turning to his prisoner. "It's 30 days fer you!"

"What's that!" cried the girl startled.

"It's all right, ma'am," the policeman assured her. "He'll get the limit from the judge."

"No, no," protested she, anxiously; 'you mustn't arrest him." "Fer why?"

"He hasn't done anything." "He's a masher."

"Oh, no, no, no!"

"He was mashin' you." "He was not." The accusation seemed to make her even more indignant than it had made the young man

"He never-er-er-mashed me." "He was trying fer to do it." "He was not. He wouldn't do such

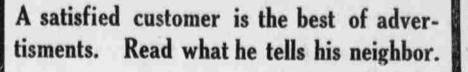
a thing." "Yes, I was," interposed the young man, who was now principally interested in eliminating Miriam from the affair.

"You were not!" she declared. "You're not that sort of a man.] guess I know you."

"No, Miriam," he protested; "you mustn't know me now." "I will, too," she insisted spiritedly.

"Won't you please go on, Miriam?" a urged. "No, I won't.

"Think of the notoriety!" "I don't care. I won't let you be arsted for any such horrible thing



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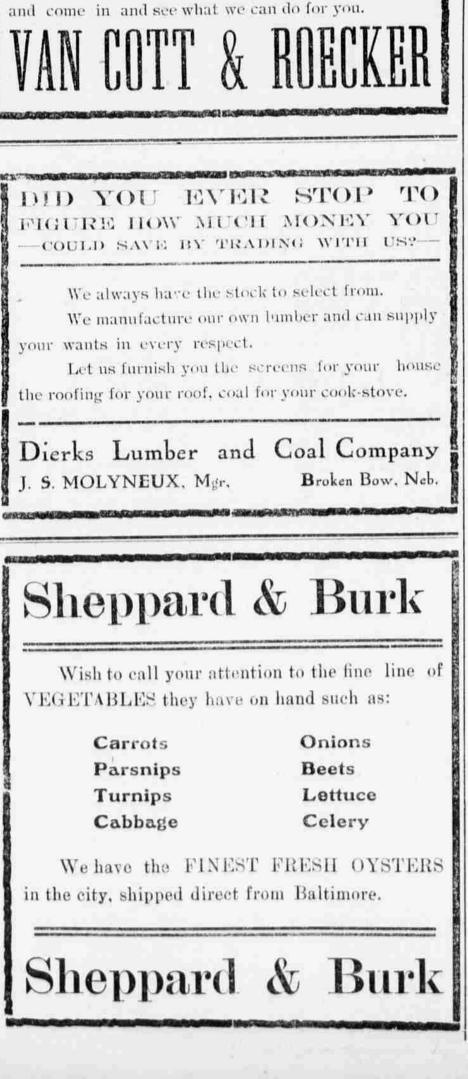
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X

"I Got It the First Time I Went Over the Road,"

have a water-tank around, even if it is understood that the contents are reserved strictly for engines. The trains-gentlemen, we once hired a photographer to take a picture of the 'Cannon-Ball Express' at full speed. He gave it a three-minute exposure, and, in actual fact, gentlemen, the motion of the train hardly blurred the negative. Woulda't have blurred it at all, photographer claimed, if he hadn't taken it on the down grade.

"The officials of the road, however, were very conscientious. If the trains wouldn't fit the schedule they were determined that, whatever happened, the schedules should fit the trains. They did everything; but, no matter how much time they gave, somehow the trains always took more, and they were worse off than before. Even left the a, m. and the p. m. off the hours announced for arrival of trains; and that did fix it so trains could never be more than six hours from scheduletaking advantage of the figuring both way. Finally, however, they hit it so that no matter what happened the trains couldn't get off. Instead of

Train No. 5 leaves-Arrives-

Jackson at 2 p. m.

and so on, they made it read: Train No. 5 leaves-

Ozark9 a. m. Arrives-Jackson not before....2 p. m.* Weston not before..... 6 p. m.

*Unless it's yesterday's train. "I, myself," the commercial traveler went on, "have never been able to see how anyone could take exception to such a table as that; but they must have, because I understand there was a branch where even that schedule didn't work. Engineers on that branch, was told, took to carrying calendars instead of watchres to run by, and even then got confused every four

years when leap year came around. "But the real feature of the Midland was the dining service. Had the oldest dining car in the state, they claimed; and some of the food was contemporaneous. They didn't have to claim that. The cuisine was especially noted for its strawberry shortcake. That word is not used in any collective or plural sense. There was only one

"I got it the first time I went over the road. Ordinary 'short' crust with powdered sugar, orthodox berry on top, presumably berries within. Being unable to make any impression, and me to be his wife I lost my voice!

I'll go to the station and tell them-" "You mustn't. It would make all kinds of talk." "Harry, I will." "Hol' on! hol' on!" cautioned the be

wildered policeman. "What's all this, annyhow? Ye said ye didn't know him.' "She doesn't," asserted the young

man. "I do, too," said the girl. "He's my-'

"For heaven's sake, take me along, officer! I'm guilty." "He isn't!" insisted the girl.

"Guilty iv what?" asked the policeman.

"Anything," said the young man, "Nothing," said the girl. "Get the wagon," pleaded the young

man "Then I'll ride in it, too," announced

he girl. "It's all my fault-"

"It's mine," interrupted the young

"Mebbe 'tis mine," sighed the poceman. "I'm tangled, annyhow. First e say she's an ol' fri'nd, an' thin ye ay ye niver saw her before, an' she gives the lie to ye both ways. Where am I at?"

"His name is Harry Wilkins," said he girl, thinking her knowledge of his fact might settle the question.

"It is not," asserted the young man, thinking to settle the matter quickly and keep her out of it by proving his own guilt.

"Back up!" ordered the troubled policeman. "Was he flirtin'?" "He was not."

"I was." The policeman looked from one to

the other. "I wash me hands iv it all," he announced, disgustedly, suddenly releasing his prisoner. "On the lvidence I cou'dn't prove which is which. Ye are an' ye are not; ye do an' ye do not. The only thing sure is that what wan iv ye gays the other will deny, the which makes me think 'tis a fam'ly

quar'l I'm mixin' up in.' This parting sally brought a blush to the girl's cheeks, and she turned quickly to the young man. Forgive me, Harry," she said.

Forgive me," he returned. "Aw, both forgive!" yelled the disappointted crowd.

And the cabman that Harry engaged to take them away from the scene of the little comedy reported that, so far as he was able to judge, they both did forgive.

British Women Inventors.

Patents for inventions relating to flying machines have been applied for by British women, and they have also directed inventive attention to railroad cars and to wireless telegraphy.

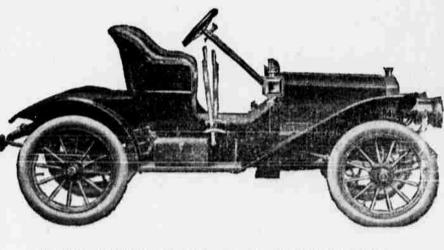
A Good Thing for Him. Edna-It's a good thing for me that silence gives consent. Amelia-Why? Edna-Last night when George asked

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